

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of September 21, 2015

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2015)	
Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration	\$599,996.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal	\$414,663.77
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$13,238.02
Amount given on 09-20-2015	\$9,007.38

Building Fund	
Balance in Building fund	\$4,603,183.99
Amount given on 09-20-2015	\$2,958.67

1. The amount needed by the last Sunday in 2015 should be an aggregate total of our financial needs including Conference Apportionments as well as all other needs.
2. The Amount Received should be the aggregate total of funds received for budgetary purposes.
3. The Consistent Weekly Need to reach the Yearly Goal will change each week depending upon the amount of weeks left as offset by the gifts received.

CHURCH STAFF

James Adair	Custodian
Sylvia Beard	Pianist
Sandra Casper	Financial Secretary
Suzanne Clegg	Director of Youth Ministry
Rev. Dr. Sondra R. Jones	Senior Pastor
Cindy LaTouf	Office Manager
Leandre Majerus	Director of Preschool Ministry
Hank Morgan	Organist
Mark Ridings	Director of Music and the Arts
Susan Rosenthal	Director of Children & Family Ministry
Bradley Trammell	Accompanist for Children and Youth

2015 Average Attendance	
Worship	292
Sunday School	118

October Missions

❖The **Great Day of Service** is Saturday, October 3rd. Sign up to help us serve our community by using the registration form on the back of your October Calendar. The form is also available on the church website. There is something for everyone in the family.

❖The **Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive** will begin on the Great Day of Service, Sat., October 3rd! Bring a donation of canned goods, laundry soap, toiletries, or cleaning supplies when you come to serve that Saturday. Donations also accepted on Sundays, Oct. 4th and 11th. Please note that we are asking for donations by Oct. 11th. Drop them at the car parked at the side entrance on Sunday mornings or in the red grocery cart in the fellowship hall. A bag of food can be purchased for \$5.00! Give us the money, and we'll shop for you.

❖**Annual Coat & Blanket Drive:** In October donate coats & blankets for our Sack Kids Hunger families this winter. Donations can be placed in the narthex or in the fellowship hall. You may also give your donation to the volunteer working at the side entrance on Sunday mornings for the Food Drive! Just be sure to get your donations to us by October 26th.

❖**Help Grace UMC feed homeless women and children** on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. We will leave the Church that morning promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to help in any way or go with us to serve, please contact Sandra Casper at 770-271-8008 or email sucasper@charter.net. Donations also accepted towards the meal. Make your check out to Buford First UMC and indicate in the memo line for Homeless Meal.



The Connection

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



To shine the light of Jesus so that children, youth, and adults grow in the knowledge and love of God through missions, evangelism, worship, nurture, and Christian education.

The Weeks of October 1, 2015 – October 31, 2015

Vol. 27 / No. 10

BFUMC Fall Festival

October 24, 2015 - 4:00p – 6:00p

The leaves are starting to turn and there is coolness in the air.

It's Fall Festival Time!

- ❖ Trunk or Treating
 - ❖ Face Painting
 - ❖ Paint a Pumpkin
 - ❖ Games
 - ❖ Costume Contests with prizes
 - ❖ Hay Ride
 - ❖ Snacks and Goodies
- In order to make it all happen, We will need the following:**
- ❖ Volunteers to help with set up beginning at 2:30
 - ❖ Volunteers to help run the games, judge the costume contest, and be trunk or treat cars.
 - ❖ Volunteers to help with the cake walk
 - ❖ Volunteers to help breakdown and clean up
 - ❖ Gift card donations of \$20.00 to \$25.00 to local restaurants for Trunk or Treat Winners
 - ❖ Gift cards of \$5.00 to DQ for our costume contest winners (we need 8)

If you would like to volunteer or donate, Please let Susan Rosenthal know at children.director@bufordfirstumc.org.

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

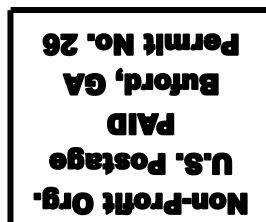
Have you ever given someone you love a gift, but instead of giving it joyfully, you resented it or as the text says, "not reluctantly, or under compulsion"? Of course, the answer is 'no' to the previous question. We know that we give to someone out of love in our hearts. You and I desire to give a gift because we want to show love for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, weddings, graduations, babies, etc. We give because we love. We give because it brings joy and satisfaction to others and to ourselves.

The apostle Paul writes these words to the Corinthians as he is taking up a collection for the Jerusalem church. He reminds the church that if you plant very little, you will get very little in return. He acknowledges the aspect of free will. Each person decides. No one forces you and me to give to God, especially not God. Instead, God who gives us so much, is the One to whom we freely give our love and gifts.

Followers of Jesus demonstrate generosity and joy in our giving. Sunday, October 18 is our church's 2016 General Fund campaign and this is for our operating budget, separate from our capital campaign (building fund) and it is the budget for our annual ministry and missions. Pray about what God leads you to give and remember "God loves a cheerful giver."

Return Service Requested

Buford First United Methodist Church
 285 East Main Street, P.O. Box 329
 Buford, Georgia 30515-0329
 770-945-7438 ~ www.bufordfirstumc.org
 Preschool 770-945-4161



A Word From The Pastor



Join Dr. Sondra Jones & Rev. Walter Jones with Bishop Mike Watson & the North Georgia Conference on the

Wesley Heritage 2016 Tour

February 1st – 10th

This is a trip of a lifetime as we explore England, the birthplace of Methodism, the land of John and Charles Wesley. We will see historic sites and enjoy the great company of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The trip departs from Atlanta on February 1, 2016. If you are interested in taking this trip, please contact Pastor Sondra for brochures, registration, costs and other information, 678-464-3334, or sondra.jones@ngumc.net

- February 1-2 Travel from Atlanta and Arrive in London
- February 3rd - John Wesley's London
- February 4th - Free Day in London
- February 5th - Stonehenge, Hanham Mount & Kingswood School
- February 6th - Gloucester & Asbury House
- February 7th - Bristol & Pill
- February 8th - Oxford & Stratford
- February 9th – Epworth
- February 10th – Departure

Say farewell as you return to the USA from Manchester or enjoy the exciting 2-day extension to Scotland or the 6-day Scotland and Ireland. See brochure from Dr. Jones about the extension trips to Scotland and Ireland.

Love and Blessings,
Pastor Sondra



*A donation has been given in memory of Glyndon C. Pruitt by: Deanna Pruitt.
*A donation has been given in memory of Edward Barton, Jr. by: Mr. and Mrs. Pat Taylor.
*A donation has been given in honor of Mary Alice Beard and Cindy LaTouf by: Jim and Meredith Holt.
*A donation has been given in honor of Kenny and Cindy Karr and Rick Huckaby by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig.
*A donation has been given in honor of Linda McQuaig, Kenny and Cindy Karr, and Harry Wilkins by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.



UMW Circle News

Effie Wood Circle members invite all church women to their annual potluck picnic for great food and fellowship at Lake Lanier West Bank Park on Oct. 6 at 6:00 PM.! Spouses are encouraged to attend, too! The park does have a \$4 fee per car so try to carpool. The church van will be available for transportation. Please contact Meredith Holt (770-945-3655) for information. If you would like to ride in the van call by Monday, October 5/

Carol Scott Circle meets the third Friday of each month at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. (October 16 is the next date.) Child care will be provided. If you are interested in knowing more about Carol Scott or will need child care in October, please contact Sherry Seabrooke at 770-886-2922 or at stseabrooke@gmail.com

Florence Garner Circle meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Beacon Sunday School room. Please contact the leader, Niki Redstrom if you have any questions at 678-232-4602. The Circle will be selling Christmas greenery until Nov. 8. More information will be coming about this.

The Women's Retreat to Twin Rivers Resort is November 13th-15th

Come enjoy some time with a great group of ladies! This year's theme is "Take Me Away-Find Rest in the Lord." Donna Thomas and Beth Ritchie will lead our sessions. Christian fellowship can boost your spirit and strengthen your faith. Cost is \$120.00 for 2 nights. Turn in a \$55.00 deposit to Louise Nauman or Suzanne Clegg to register. Information is in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study



Please consider joining us for a short term **Adult Bible Study**, led by Dr. Sondra Jones! We'll study Philippians, and meet in the home of church member, Sue Morris (1407 Magnolia Path Way, Buford 30518), on Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The class begins October 13th, and will meet for 4 weeks. Let Sue know if you plan to participate - home phone: (770) 945-5718 and email: sueharris@bellsouth.net

Buford First UMC Care Groups Did you know we have 13 Care groups organized to keep open the lines of communication in our church with regard to any joys or needs families might experience. Each group has a leader who emails or telephones group members when there is a need. If you would like to be more involved, see Beth Lanaston or Linda Hummer

A set of **Double 18 Dominoes** is yours for a donation. See the set on the youth table in the fellowship hall. Donations will help the youth go on trips. See Suzanne Clegg if you would like a set.

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

Wouldn't you like to know why people participate in your church choirs?

"Singing gives me joy!"

"Music is an important part of my life and has helped guide me through both happy and sad times."

"Singing in the shower just isn't enough"

"The people in the choir are fun to be around"

"Music quiets my soul"

"The choir provides a small group to become close to"

"There are times when the words when and music we sing, touch my soul."

"Singing in the choir uses my gifts to thank God"

"He/She who sings prays twice"

Join a choir today! Please see Mark Ridings for more information

Pumpkin Patch

Buford First United Methodist Church

October 7 – October 31



Hours of Operation:

Monday – Saturday 10a.m. – 8p.m.

Sunday 12p.m. – 8p.m.

A project of the Buford First Youth --

Proceeds go to

Youth Programs and Trips

Sign up to work the Patch by visiting the church website on September 24

Suzanne

Pumpkins Spice and everything nice...It's that time of year! It's Fall Ya'll, and that means it is time to start thinking about the holidays and counting our blessings. It is also the time of year where we need to stop and think about those whose blessings may not be so bountiful. Why not take time with your children and think about how you can make someone else's holiday season just a little bit brighter.

Gather up the coats and clothing that the kids have outgrown and take it to a local shelter, bring your kids on a Saturday and help out with SKH. Invite someone to your home for Thanksgiving Dinner. Take a look at the Great Day of Service form and see where you and your children can help out. Bake cookies for your local fire department or police station. Visit a local nursing home. Just take a minute to bless someone else's day.

Our world is filled with images of sadness and hate; let's try to replace those images with Love and caring. Jesus said we should love one another as He loves us....Lets show our children how.



October Preschool Events

- 1st: Wear Pink To School
- 6th: Staff Meeting 1:15p
- 7th: Fire Truck & Pumpkin Patch Visit
- 12th: No School
- 13th: Fundraiser Due
- 14th+15th: Fall Pictures With Scott Calman
- 20th: Petting Zoo
- 22nd: Fire Drill
- 28th: Prek Progress Reports Go Home
- 29th: Wear Fall Shirt/Fall Treat

International Mission Trip

Would you be interested in a Mission Trip to Nassau in the Bahamas? We have sent teams 5 times to the Bahamas and have had a great experience every time! We are hoping to take a team of adults and youth who would serve for a week there, in early July 2016. Children can even go- if accompanied by a parent. Cost is \$750.00 each, plus air fare (at \$500.00 round trip right now). Youth group members get a \$100.00 discount. Fund raising will help you earn up to \$300.00 or more! There will be a team doing VBS at St. Michael's Methodist, and a team going to serve at All Saints Camp. Please email Suzanne at studentministry@bufordfirstumc.org if you have ANY interest in this experience.

United Methodist Men's Golf Tournament

Save the Date and get your teams together!

October 27 at 9 AM

Shotgun start at beautiful

Reunion Country Club in Braselton.

For more information, contact Chris Simonson, (404) 775-1995 or chrisimon@comcast.net



Young At Heart Evening Event

October 13th

Lawrenceville Ghost Tour – The oldest city in the Metro Atlanta area was a sleepy suburban southern town, but with growth and development the historic downtown was renovated at the turn of the century. The renovation has awakened the sleeping ghosts sparking paranormal activities. We will be chilled to the bone after hearing storytellers regale us about local legends handed down over the decades, or recent paranormal investigations. Come if you dare! We will have dinner at McCray's Tavern on the Square prior to our tour.

Reserve a spot by Oct. 6th (Make reservations to Debbie Atcheson, djatcheson@gmail.com or 770-965-3729)

Cost \$15.00 plus dinner on your own. Bus will load at 5:00 P.M. If you can't make the bus join us by 7:30 at the Aurora Theatre in Lawrenceville!